

**Remarks**

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated November 13, 2003. Claims 1-10 and 12-25 are pending. No claims have been amended in this Response. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview held on January 28, 2004, in which Applicant pointed out that all of the pending claims were not considered in the Office Action dated November 13, 2003. For example, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-10 and 21-21 are pending. However, applicant filed an Amendment (mailed August 22, 2003) in which new claims 22-25 were added and in which claims 1-2, 9, 12 and 19 were amended. The Examiner indicated during the interview that he apparently had not considered the claims that were in the Amendment mailed Aug. 22, 2003. He also indicated that he would prepare a new Office Action that examines all of the claims.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of the claims in the Nov. 13, 2003 amendment be withdrawn, or the Amendment itself be withdrawn, and that the claims as set forth in the Amendment mailed on Aug. 22, 2003 be examined.

Applicant notes that in addition to the RCE and IDS papers mailed on Aug. 4, 2003 (entered by the Office on Aug. 6, 2003), applicant also filed the following documents: (1) the Amendment referred to above (mailed Aug. 22, 2003), (2) an IDS including citing a translation of a previously submitted reference (mailed Aug. 28, 2003), (3) another IDS citing two US patents (mailed Oct. 17, 2003), and (4) another IDS (mailed Nov. 25, 2003) citing a Japanese office action and reference. Should the Examiner need additional copies of any of these papers, he is requested to notify the undersigned and copies will be forwarded as needed.

The Nov. 13, 2003 Office Action also included various comments concerning the art and the non-patentability of features in various of the pending claims. The discussion above has directly addressed some of those comments and the Examiner's other comments are deemed moot at this time in view of this response.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in patentable form. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner has any questions regarding the papers

previously filed, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 6, 2004  
(Date)